Middlebury Mar. 27th 1848

Dear Brother:

Your kind letter was recieved by due course of mail, and you doubtless by this time, think it time for me to return an answer. And it is not owing to a careless neglect, that I have not done so before now. But amid the pressure of business by which I am surrounded, I have as yet found little time for writing; and as Sumner wrote you a few days since, I trust you will be willing to excuse my delay.

I rejoice to learn that you are at length a student of "Hamilton Union Academy," and that you are so well pleased with your situation. I am quite sure you will never have occasion to repent having gone to this, in preference to other schools. I often look back upon the time which I was permitted to spend there with pleasing emotions. I consider it, in many respects, one of the most profitable seasons which I have ever spent; and my only regret is, that I did not go there at the commencement of my preparatory course. You will in no place, recieve more thorough instruction in the studies which you pursue, than there: But this is by no means all. The moral influences which are exerted upon the student's mind, at that institution are among its highest advantages. It countenances nothing of a light and frivolous nature, but it constantly directs the mind to those great objects which most intimately concern its present and future welfare. Although I can

never again be a member of that time honored institution, yet it gives me much satisfaction to think that I have a brother there; and I hope and confidently trust that he will prove himself worthy the privileges which he enjoys. Although it may at first appear to you that you are enlisted among the "straightest sect," yet persevere and become "straight" also, and my word for it, when you shall have closed your career there, you will have occasion to bless the day you made so wise a choice. I am also happy to learn that you board in Mr. Baldwin's family. I think you could not have found a better place. I almost fancy that I can see you, sitting in the same chair, at the same table, and by the same old chimney, where I used to occupy and making the same paths, and associating with many of the same companions. O how my heart leaps to be there again. —— but no, I cannot! Let me caution you brother, not to study too hard now in the first part of your course. Make it one of your first duties to preserve your health. Remember you are comparatively young now, and it will be many years before you will be as old as your brothers were when they entered college: therefore be not too sanguine in your pursuits. Perhaps you may think my preaching is better than my practice. May be so. But I speak to you thus early in your course, because I am confident that I have injured myself heretofore by too close application; so much so, that I am now compelled to limit my study hours to a far less number than formerly.

It seems from the letter you wrote Pemmer, that you are deeply engaged in for the subject of religion. I rejoice

that this is the case, and hope that the work which seems to have been began in your mind will be carried forward, until you shall enjoy that peace, which the world can neither give nor take away; and may you be enabled to renounce all the vanities of earth and set your affections on those things which the ravages of time can never change. The subject of religion, more than any other, has occupied my thoughts for many years; and I am ashamed to confess than on no subject have I been so reluctant to speak as this. I have wished many times to talk with you upon it, but dared not. — was ashamed to own my Savior! I pray that the Lord may forgive me this sin, and help me to live more consistently in the future. ~~The~~ Many years before Summer became pious, my mind was impressed in a manner which I shall never forget. But, under such influences as I then was, I had not the moral courage to make known my feelings. And when I think of the years which I have since spent in so great indifference to the cause of Christ, I often fear in the deep anguish of my soul, that I am not a christian. At times I have felt that I was in the enjoyment of religion, and then again my sins have arisen up before me, so frightfully that my hopes are almost blighted. My mind is not wholly at peace, nor will it be, until I shall have obtained moral courage, sufficient to take a more decided stand before the world, and declare before men that I am for Christ. And I pray God that he may inspire me with christian courage and fortitude, and enable me to discharge my whole duty. My brother, quench not the holy spirit, which is ~~at work~~ now striving with

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~~I~~ you, but heed its warning voice and obey all its admonitions. Then shall you have rest to your soul. I know by bitter experience the keen pangs of remorse which follow a neglect to heed its instructions. I hope when you write me again you will state to me your feelings unreservedly, for I am anxious to know them.

Things go on here at College very much in the same old way. I have not studied very hard yet, indeed sometimes I think the instruction which we receive does not require very hard study. Our class are under the same instructors as last fall, excepting in the department of mathematics there has been a change (though not for the better). Pres. Labaree is away collecting funds for the college, and is said to have good success. Prof. Robbins is here: Gov. Colton & Prof. Parker will not come until commencement.

It is now supposed that the prospects of the college are brightening; I hope it may be so; for times are now very dull indeed. Our class have not been through that terrible examination yet, and I guess we shall go clear, ~~yet~~, after all.

Write me again soon, and let me know all about the Marion Academy. How many students attend? How many in the senior class? I would like to know whether Wm Baldwin is there this term.

Present my best regards to Mr and Mrs. Baldwin and all the members of the family;—to your cousin Thomas, and all with whom I am acquainted as far as you know them.

Your affectionate brother Solon